

Chapmanville Regional Meeting Presenter Bios

C. Casey Forbes

C. Casey Forbes is the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia and the Intermediate Court of Appeals of West Virginia. Casey is the sixteenth person to serve as Clerk of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia since the State was founded in 1863, and the second Clerk of the Intermediate Court of Appeals of West Virginia since it was founded in 2022.

Casey is a native of Charleston. He has a bachelor's degree in English from Shepherd University, a master's degree in English from the College of Charleston, S.C./Citadel, and a law degree from the University of Montana. He has worked in the Office of the Clerk since 2018 as a staff attorney then deputy clerk. He previously served as a staff attorney for the West Virginia Legislature; a writ clerk in the Supreme Court's Office of Counsel; an attorney in private practice, during which time he was appointed as a mental hygiene commissioner in and for Kanawha County; and an assistant attorney general.

Amanda Taylor

Amanda J. Taylor is a partner at Taylor, Hinkle & Taylor in Beckley, WV, where she joined as partner in October of 2023. She has over a decade of experience in successfully litigating civil cases on behalf of her clients. She handles a variety of cases including car wrecks, personal injury, employment claims, workplace injury, and insurance bad faith. Amanda has also developed a specialty sub-practice advocating for victims of sexual assault, and has also handled class action, medical malpractice, mass litigation, and funeral home negligence claims.

Kristin P. Halkias

Kristin P. Halkias received her undergraduate degree from Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio in 1993, and graduated from West Virginia College of Law in 1996. She spent a decade working in private practice and as a Decision Deputy for the Bureau of Employment Programs before becoming an Assistant Attorney General in its Litigation Unit. In 2010, she joined the Offices of the Insurance Commissioner as a settlement specialist for their Legal Division. She then served as a Deputy Chief Administrative Law Judge for the West Virginia Workers' Compensation Office of Judges for nine years before joining the Offices of Lawyer Disciplinary Counsel in September 2021.

Judge Stacy Nowicki-Eldridge, Twenty-Fifth Judicial Circuit

Stacy L. Nowicki-Eldridge was appointed to the bench in the Twenty-Fifth Judicial Circuit (Boone and Lincoln Counties) by Governor Jim Justice and was sworn into office on December 3, 2021.

Judge Nowicki-Eldridge graduated in 1996 from West Virginia University and in 1999 from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. Before her appointment, she practiced law in West Virginia for 20 years, mostly as an Assistant Attorney General for the West Virginia Attorney General's Office and General Counsel for the West Virginia Division of Corrections. She was Deputy General Counsel for the West Virginia Department of Homeland Security at the time of her appointment to the bench. She has also served as a judicial clerk, an assistant prosecuting attorney, and an assistant public defender.

Judge Joshua D. Butcher, Seventh Judicial Circuit

Judge Butcher was born and raised in Logan County and is a 1998 graduate of Beth Haven Christian School. He earned his bachelor's degree in accounting from Marshall University in 2003 and his law degree from the West Virginia University College of Law in 2006.

Judge Butcher worked a short stint in private practice and served as a Logan County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney. Most notably, he served eight years as Law Clerk to Judge Roger Perry in Division One of the Seventh Judicial Circuit (Logan County) – the seat Judge Butcher now holds after his election to the bench in 2016. He is a former president of the Logan County Bar Association and current member of the West Virginia Judicial Association. Judge Butcher is currently the youngest circuit judge in West Virginia.